Research in the field of biotechnology

3100. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent research taking place in the field of biotechnology, particularly in the west, aimed to reduce the western dependence on the agricultural products of the developing countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Developed countries are concentrating their research and development in biotechnology towards improving and devising new techniques and technologies of agricultural production. The efforts are in the direction of developing value added products such as hybrids, transgenic varieties, biopesticides, biofertilizers and tissue culture raised improved materials. The new methods of agricultural production with the application of modern tools and techniques of agricultural biotechnology in the industrialized countries may displace partially some traditional products of developing countries. Markets for many of developing countries' primary products may also be subjected to some decrease. Realising the importance of the above developments; Department of Biotechnology; ICAR and other scientific organizations are supporting indigenous research and development in genetic engineering especially in the field of agriculture, horticultre and plantation crops plant molecular biolcgy; tissue culture microprogation; biological control of pests and diseases; and development of biofertilizers; etc. Private sector companies in India are also taking up joint ventures with developed countries by entering into production of biotechnology products as also traditional product substitutes.

Violation of guidelines of recognition of R and D by Razor Blade Manufacturing Units

3101. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Razor Blade manufacturing units in Thane are meeting their steel raw material requirements entirely through captive manufacture for the last several years which is categorised as R and D activity;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any enquiry into the matter as this is in violation of the prescribed guidelines for recognition of R and D;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to hold a full-fledged enquiry into the activities to prevent financial loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) Alleged misuse of In-house R and D facilities by a Razor blade manufacturing unit in Thane to meet its raw material requirements has been enquired into and corrective actions are being initiated to prevent misuse of In-house R and D recognition.